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A Statistical and Descriptive

POEM OF TEXAS.

BY

Mrs. Mattie A. Blankenship.

PRICE 15 CENTS.

A

STATISTICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE

POEM OF TEXAS.

BY

MRS. MATTIE A. BLANKENSHIP,

ANSON, JONES CO., TEXAS.

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A STATISTICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE POEM OF TEXAS.

This Poem was inspired from traveling over the state,
Incorporating statistics correctly to date.
For Texas has "come to the front" and now boldly stands
Proclaiming her greatness and fertility of lands.
The "Lone Star" flag is majestically unfurled
And is gracefully waving kind greetings to the world,
Inviting capital and industry to come and partake
Of fruits derived from what development can make.
The representations of Texas are all quite true,
(This poem does not tell of the old state but the new.)
Once a hard country on "women and oxen," twas said,
But now "Texas on Wheels," fully attests what is read
Of the Southwestern Empire, her grandieur and beauty
Made perfect, by the efficient discharge of her duty.

Texas raises yearly one-fourth of the cotton made,
For the farmers are expert with the plow, hoe and spade.
Has some of the best sugar lands in the United States,
Many railroads traversing the country, with low rates.
Forty million acres of timber and much lumber
And different kinds of wood almost without number:
There's walnut, dogwood, pine, maple, live oak, elm and gum
Mesquite, bois'd arc, cedar, water oak, rose and plum.
There are specimens of fire-clay, hydraulic, limestone,
Lignite, vegetable marl, coal-ore and all her own,
Waiting for capital and industry to combine
And develop the natural resources so fine,
To tell all about this mammoth Industrial State,
It would take many volumes well written to relate.

Half the public domain is devoted to schools that are free.
Deep harbors, five hundred miles of coast, beside the sea.
One hundred and seventy-five million acres land.
Two hundred and fifteen organized counties, that's grand.
Texas homestead law, allows her citizens to own
Two hundred acres land and other things well-known.
Such as horses, oxen, sheep, goats, farm utensils, swine.
Household furniture, private property and kine.
'Tis a law whereby the poor can gain a little start.
Which shows her legislators were men of kindly heart
By industry and good management all may do well.
Who come to the beautiful Lone Star State to dwell.
Good fellowship and generosity to all
Is invariably practiced by the great and small.

There are two penitentiaries to punish the bad
One reformatory to restrain the lawless lad.
Under the management and supervision of State
Everything is done for the reform of the inmate.
From north to south, Texas is seven hundred miles:
Eight hundred east to west, is not written to beguile.
But is what the noble commissioner reports true.
In the statistics gathered, for people to review:
There are various channels, if taken at the floodgate
That leads to great success; with energy stimulate:
But it requires good judgment to succeed and do well.
That is why Texans accomplish grand deeds and excel:
The peer of any state, Texas gracefully poses—
Teeming with natural advantages and resources.

Texas is a great place to accumulate riches.
'Tis an old saying: "one stitch in time saves nine stitches."
In accepting the invitation to immigrate
And realize the truthful assertion: she is a state
That is manufacturing cotton, wool and leather;
And the immense stock of cattle and horses together.
Alongside the cotton bales and the free-school money,
Which is $100,000,000; while bees and honey
Are at every farmhouse—the bees from opening flowers,
Imbibing sweets and improving the shining hours.
In the orchards of Texas are found apple and plum;
Peaches, pears, grapes, quinces, while in the garden, some
Vegetables: consisting of the bean and cucumber,
Onions, tomatoes, okra and pepper, without number.

It requires two persons on the farm to take in charge
A hundred pound watermelon, so luscious and large.
Industrial Texas, raises both cotton and corn,
Wheat, oats, rye and barley the broad fields richly adorn;
The Panhandle shrieks a loud blast of welcome to all,
And invites enterprising prospectors to call,
Also talent, capital and labor, to come and invest
In rich fertile lands, locate and grow up with the west.
There are preachers, teachers, public and private schools,
Horses, sheep, swine, blooded stock and fine gentle mules.
In fact, there is everything in Texas to-day,
That bespeaks to the immigrant, this is the way;
Makes her the grandest and most magnificent state,
Offers homeseekers land at a liberal, low rate.

Northwest Texas is a prairie, with horses and cattle.
On the extreme north, tall, waving wheatfields that rattle
As winds murmurs cadences, among the growing wheat;
The reaper and the thresher once a year the farmers greet.
Thirty to sixty bushels of grain per acre is made;
Then harvested in granaries, ready for the trade.
In the east and central portion of this great empire
Are snow-white fields of cotton; fenced in with barbwire.
Farther south are the sugar farms that pay immensely;
And east are the pineries, so thick and so densely,
Where the sawmills are numerous that run night and day;
Employ men to labor, and return them ample pay.
Texas has seventy thousand acres of iron ore;
Makes two millions bales cotton yearly and oftimes more.

Sheep ranches in Texas are large and sheep fine grade;
Fifty dollars fine and imprisonment, a law made
For carrying concealed weapons; the laws are enforced;
'Tis seldom that a husband and wife are divorced.
Laws are rigid in the prosperous Lone Star State,
She's out of debt with millions, and taxes the lowest rate;
Immigrants coming amid the corn, cotton and wheat,
Will develop unparalleled success hard to beat.
Mineral and agricultural advantages
Always insure honest laboring men fair wages,
And with the capitalist taking share in stock
Will most assuredly her vast resources unlock.
The farmers' home is a beautiful rural retreat,
With comfortable dwellings and out-houses neat.

Of rivers there are many, the Rio Grande on the west,
The Sabine that rushes into the Gulf with much zest,
There are Neches, Trinity, Brazos, San Jacinto,
Gaudalupe, San Saba, Pecos, Clear Fork, Colorado,
Antocosa, Rease, San Marcus, Red, Navasota,
And various others including the Wichita,
Navidad, Trinidad, Bernard, Leon and Llano,
Little River, Salt Fork, Canadian and Concho,
To say nothing of the picturesque Double Mountain
That gushes like the waters of "Lodore's" mad fountain.
On the plains are canons, almost impassible valleys;
Canon City is near and for the settlers rallies,
Streams of living water flow from the Canons here named:
Both Palo Duro and Terra Blanco are much famed.

There are some mountains, many rivers, creeks, branches,
Traversing Texas soil, but immense are her ranches,
And the cowboy is captain over the vast, vast herd,
He feasts on antelope, wild ducks, milk, butter and curd,
Is a graduate in all the slang phrases in use,
He's a jolly good fellow with his slang in a sluice;
For merriment and good humor none can him surpass,
He sings the same familiar song o'er and o'er; "Sam Bass."
Occasionally among the cowboys one will find
Young men of rare intellectual culture of mind,
That's quit the classic halls of learning to be cowboys,
Inspired by the spirit of adventure and its joys,
Thus the old trite copy "Many men of many minds"
Comes to remembrance "Many birds of many kinds."

Texas has six hundred thousand children at school
Daily attending and learning to obey the rule.
They are noted for their studious application:
For they see the great importance of filling any station.
As years develop them into noble women and men
Some will distinguish themselves by the arts and the pen.
While the architects among them will be building domes.
Others will till the fertile soil and have rural homes.
And the tradesmen on the list will successfully trade.
Some will be handling the hoe, some the trowel and spade:
But in any event the most will be brave and bold.
This great prognostication the future will unfold.
The children of this state also attend Sunday-school
Where they are taught biblical lore and the Golden Rule.

There are twelve thousand teachers in the State of Texas.
Most refined and enlightend scholars of both sexes.
Quite faithfully they are battling for knowledges right
Solving problems, instilling principles, throwing light
On the sciences, examining and explaining,
Patiently plodding along without complaining;
Working earnestly hoping their efforts will be crowned
With success, as pupils from graduating halls bound.
To enter the arena, that's awaiting their debut.
In society and business 'tis a sad adieu,
Both to pupil and teacher, for time alone can bring.
Childhood, youth, manhood and old age, which all cling.
Alas! the four seasons of this life are briefly passed;
Time comes when pupil and teacher are no longer classed.

In every city of note in Texas there is noise
Made by the miniature business men, the newsboys:
Here's the *Post*! Here's the *Gazette*! Here's the *Daily News*!
Is sung out in childish voices early 'mid the dews;
And late at night their cries are heard at public places
Proclaiming: Here's the *News*; the latest from the races!
Newsboys are famous for energy; nor mind defeat
Generally "get there" running or hobbling on both feet,
They are emblems of perseverance, their motto's "Try,"
Not like "Dickens' Fannie" for want of effort to die,
And years to come will find them capable business men.
Some excelling with the sword, some with the inky pen;
They have learned by experience, how and what to do
For they have traveled early and late the old road and new.

The large cities have their dailies ably edited,
They are the delight of the populace and are read
By every one, hence the people are well informed,
Know from Foster's predictions when they will be stormed.
Each city has a Fire and Military Co.,
When duty sounds the call they are waiting to go.
There are secret orders, Masons, Odd Fellows and Knights
The streets are lit in cities with electric lights.
And the motor system adopted to run the cars
Up and down the streets without any terrible jars.
All the towns of prominence have cornet bands that play
Whenever they have a picnic or a gala day.
Each county and town has its official journal,
Well edited by some ex-mayor or colonel,

The public institutions of Texas are endowed
Most munificently for her good people are proud
Of the asylums for orphans, the deaf, dumb and blind.
Also for those suffering from alienation of mind.
The denominational colleges and convents
Are numerous with military drills for students.
Georgetown and Tehuacana are famous for fine schools.
Their universities are disciplined by modern rules
And rank high as institutes of culture and learning.
Their professors are men of lore and are discerning.
Sherman has a conservatory that is complete
With strains of excellent music, harmonious and sweet.
There are commodious boarding houses and hotels.
In all the cities, gas, water works and artesian wells.

Texas has numerous railroads of vast dimensions.
The International that's claiming much attention.
M. K. & T., Henrietta, Denver, Santa Fe,
Cotton Belt, Rock Island, San Antonio and T. P.
Central, Aransas Pass, (better known as the Mission.)
All are prominent and occupy great position
Through this great state, hither and thither, they tangle
Each making good time, never pausing to wrangle;
Besides these, there are other roads, branches and taps.
Which can readily be seen laid down on Texas maps.
Too much could not be written in praise of these net-lines
That traverse Texas soil from the plains to the pines.
The officials are accomodating and polite
And attend to their duties with studious delight

Galveston, Houston, Denison and San Antonio,
Dallas, Fort Worth, Weatherford, Waco and El Paso.
Besides many other places with great enterprise
Are manufacturing, and cities of smaller size,
With their rivers and numerous artesian wells
See the vast importance of making something that sells:
So they have their plants busily running day and night.
In fact Texas people do everything they think right
To build up their country, cities, towns and railways.
The reason is obvious, for they know that it pays.
There is nothing "Small about Texas" or her Capitol.
Even the sun shines brilliantly with rays from old Sol
To bring up wild flowers and the beautiful grass
That carpets the prairies with its soft verdant mass.

Texline on the Denver and Midland on the T. P.
Are prosperous towns and are "busy as a bee,"
Hartley, Smarilla, Armstrong, Clarendon, Goodnight,
Are fast growing places with Childress reflecting light
Over fine lands, such as pre-emption and school sections,
Awaiting settlers to come and make choice selections.
Texas has millions of acres of richest virgin soil,
From its cheapness and variety none can recoil.
Colorado City is the great salt center known,
While Stonewall county is a bud only half blown.
But time will develop her minerals 'neath the ground
For Geologist Dumble has explored and them found.
Haskell City and her paper, the *Free Press*, is O. K.
Her prosperity and rich soil demands a railway.

The traveler will open the gates of El Paso.
And enter Texas, and in his travels to and fro
Will see superb improvements bespeaking great progress;
For El Paso "is in the swim" and will not grow less.
She continues building and improving all the while.
Her citizens are energetic and put on style.
In fact, she is a staunch city and ranks very high
The traveler in departing will assuredly sigh.
Long will be remembered civilities extended
To the *Texas Press*, as on their journey they wended
And were in El Paso most royally entertained
By her good people while the editors remained.
After enjoying a delightful and pleasant stay
The traveler will take the Texas Pacific Railway.

North and West Texas have progressive towns in the lead
Where the great "Iron Horse" rushes with firey speed.
They are Coleman, Brownwood, Balinger, San Angelo.
Sweetwater, Colorado City, Big Springs and more.
While the Panhandle villas, post offices, beside
Stage stands, country stores, ranches are strongly allied
To cordially invite honest immigration
To the largest state in this enterprising nation.
The land for the thrifty, where many may find a home.
O'er the vast prairies antelope and wild deer roam.
Healthy breezes waft sweet perfume from gay wild flowers,
Planted and cultivated by the Higher Powers.
Water is in abundant quantities under the ground,
While rivers, creeks, lakes, springs and brooks abound.

Abilene, Taylor County, is the "Pride of the West,"
All her citizens enterprises are of the best.
At the Fort Worth Spring Palace, and Dallas Fair too;
Medals were awarded her exhibits, as their due.
Each year she is adding many laurels to the old,
Commanding admiration from the brave and bold;
By steady improvement of the Progressive Committee,
Abilene ranks foremost as a prominent city.
Her newspaper men, the *Reporter* and *News* editors,
Are deserving of praise as the worthy creditors
Of laboring in behalf of stately Abilene,
To increase her advantages with patriotic mien.
They are reaping the harvest sown with wonderful zest,
For the Abilene country is the "Pride of the West."

Thirty miles from Abilene and the T. P. Railway,
Is the interesting town of Anson not at play;
She is the pretty county seat of progressive Jones,
And invites the actual settler in heartiest tones.
Her population is one thousand and still growing,
The Anson high school on education is bestowing
Every facility as an incentive to learn
And the efficient teachers very proudly earn
The name of being great educators of high type.
The *Texas Western* is a paper that's always ripe
For any enterprise beneficial to Anson,
While prohibition is the greatest victory won. [clerks,
There are preachers, doctors, lawyers, merchants, bankers,
And county officials, working for Anson like "Turks."

At Baird sometimes a District fair is celebrated;
Where farmers display their products to be rated.
There the home-seeker can see that 'tis within his reach
To cultivate and feast upon apples, grapes and peach.
She bids him a hearty welcome within her domains,
Where the yeoman can reap from the soil ample gains.
Cisco, Albany, each have advantages that are great.
Such towns reflect credit on this enterprising state.
Seymour, Quanah, Henrietta, Archer City, invite
The immigrant to enter their cities with delight.
Wichita Falls offers many inducements rare
To those who wish to come, locate and abide there.
The prosperous towns of Graham, Longview and Rockwall,
Solicit capital and labor to give them a call.

Gainesville, Whitesboro, Denison, Sherman, Honey Grove,
Welcome the traveler if within he chance to rove;
While pleasing to the eye is thriving Texarkana,
Jefferson, Marshal, Mineola, Corsicana,
Terrell, Hillsborough, Waxahachie, Palestine,
Are developing into cities of wonderous mien.
Tyler, Brenham, Bastrop, Paris, Navisota,
Are extending inviting hands to every voter.
Victoria, Bonham, Llano, Brownsville, Rockport,
Corpus Christi, Indianola, Burnet, "Hold the Fort,"
Laredo, Texas, Eagle Pass, Del Rio, are all
Rustling and hustling, while Pecos City rolls the ball.
The far famed Pecos Valley wants more laborers to toil
And open up farms amid her rich fertile soil.

Dublin, Erath county, is sailing in clover;
With spirited energy she is bubbling over.
The Dublin Investment Company is doing good
For Dublin's rapid growth is perfectly understood.
She is fast approaching the expected day of bliss,
"When she will wear long dresses and cease being a miss."
Commanchie, Hamilton, Grandbury, are in the row.
Lampasas is a summer resort where many go;
Her healthy waters cure the bodily infirm
And the pleasant breezes expell all poisonous germ.
The hotels are first-class and great credit they reflect,
And the amusements provided in every respect
Are refined, elevating and delightful to see,
As all who visit Lampasas heartily agree.

Gatesville, McGregor, Belton, Taylor, Georgetown, Temple,
Are noted shipping points for the white fleecy staple.
Cameron, Rockdale and other growing lively towns
Possess many advantages which truly resound
To the glory of this thriving Industrial Empire,
Her citizens with patriotic ambition aspire
To elevate their station, be it humble or grand,
The Farmer's Alliance and Grange, lead the noble band.
Their official organs are friends in time of need
And are laboring for those causes nobly indeed.
The *Farmer's World*, published in Dallas, it is said
Is a powerful paper, greatly beloved and read.
Texas Farmer battles for the Grange and tries to do
Its duty and is unexcelled for principles true.

In every portion of this growing commonwealth
Are prosperous towns, noted for morals and good health.
Jewet, Ennis, Hubbard City, Groesbeck and Mexia,
Marlin, Cleburn, Morgan, Meridian, are most fair.
Beeville, Mason, Hempstead, Hearn, Bellville, Caldwell,
Trinity, Seguin, Gonzales, are pleasant places to dwell.
Crocket, Calvert, Kossee, Victoria, Lavaca, Hallettsville,
Big Sandy, Sulphur Springs, New Braunfels, Madisonville,
Carthage, Flatonia, Henderson, La Grange, Shulensburg,
Rusk, Menardville, Orange, Athens and Fredericksburg,
Denton, Decatur, McKinney, Greenville, Wolfe City,
Are singing to the immigrant a welcoming ditty.
These towns have handsome churches and schools to rec-
With polished society and amusements to blend. [ommend

Beaumont is widely known for extensive lumber piles,
Which extend along the Neches river many miles.
Sabine, Aransas Pass, are valiantly in the ring
And to the idea of Deep Water do they fondly cling.
In Huntsville the remains of Sam Houston lies sleeping,
But the reward of his efforts Texas is reaping.
The brave Hero of San Jacinto will ne'er be forgot;
For his memory is sacred and sanctifies the spot.
The famous A. M. College at Bryan is located;
This great institute is pleasantly situated.
New Birmingham has vast quantities of iron ore,
Enough to supply the United States and many more
With pig iron for gigantic furnaces to mold [told."
In the Queen of Sheba's language "The half has not been

Brazos being interpreted means the Arm of God.
So called by a Jesuite Priest who on her banks trod;
She is a river that empties in the Gulf stream,
Velasco at her mouth gives a long vocific scream
And Heralds the news of deep, deep, water on her bar
She victoriously shouts the glad tidings near and far;
So Velasco will soon be a city of repute
This assertion no one can truthfully dispute.
Texas has much over nine thousand miles of railway,
Is developing a giant in strength every day;
Has eleven thousand miles of telegraphic lines
Permeating the state with inexhaustible mines
Of coal and mountains of iron and mineral wealth,
Her pure bracing breezes are conducive to health.

On the Colorado's banks Austin is situated,
This beautiful city could not be overrated,
She's Texas' Capitol and destined to be
A manufacturing city of great degree.
Here the mammoth state building the Capitol is found
It towers upward several hundred feet from the ground,
'Tis the seventh largest structure that's built on the earth.
Three million acres of land is its estimated worth.
Within its walls the governor and efficient corps
Beside, as also the legislators, men of lore
Enact laws for the two and half million populace,
Which show in plain figures Texas has a growing race.
The Press of Austin bear a world renowned learned name
That does honor to the Lone Star's well merited fame.

Waco on the Brazos river is known far and near.
She's an active city that labors without fear.
The business men do not recognize the word Fail.
They are manufacturing for home use and wholesale.
In the Central city there are sixteen geyser wells
Sending out volumes of hot water which plainly tells
That she is a desirable location for all.
Those who wish to manufacture can give her a call.
Baylor University and the Female College.
Are disseminating pure principles with knowledge.
The teachers employed are full of ability;
Both schools possess every musical facility.
Her newspaper men are a witty. brainy. lot.
Who know what to do for Waco's good just to a dot.

Fort Worth is Texas' most progressive railroad center:
From north, south, east. west. by rail the traveler can enter.
She has one hundred artesian wells overflowing.
And is prosperous while rapidly she is growing.
Many new additions have been laid out into plots
And the land agents readily find sale for the lots.
Her business buildings are magnificent and superb:
Also the residences are beautiful in suburb.
Fort Worth is the destined Chicago of this grand state.
She has every railway facility for freight.
Her schools, colleges and universities rank high
And the brewery purchases the Panhandle rye.
Great is the noble valiant paper *The Gazette*.
Whose faithful labor of love Fort Worth will ne'er forget.

The traveler enters Dallas with feelings of civic pride
To view so grand a city. The fact is ne'er denied
That her population is quite forty thousand strong.
Of enterprising people who constitute this throng.
She manufactures largely, wholesales for Texan's need.
Enjoys various religions of most holy creed.
This great Metropolis of Texas has numerous schools.
That educate their students and drill them to their rules.
Many papers are issued in this prosperous place.
Too large the number to reiterate, for want of space.
Edited by men of intellect and ample brain,
Who labor with energy for Dallas, might and main.
The *Dallas Daily News* is a glowing morning star.
Whose brilliant lustre is shed in Texas and afar.

The city of of San Antonio is of great renown,
She is famous as a beautiful and thriving town,
The grand old "Alamo" bears a never-dying name
Of grandieur, coupled with Texas' historical fame.
She is noted for handsome public structures and banks.
As an educational center she highly ranks.
San Antonio has various avenues of wealth,
The climate is salubrious and warrants good health.
The population is "sixty thousand" mayhap more.
For immigration is constantly opening her door.
San Antonio lays claim, and to the public presents.
Fashions, libraries, recreations and amusements.
The editors of her Newspapers are men of nerve.
From their duty and obligations they never swerve.

Houston on Buffalo Bayou, is a place of note,
Persons who visit her, ever remember and dote
On the beauty of her buildings, so select and rare,
She is an active city and is fast "getting there."
Her business men are energetic and so polite,
They welcome new citizens to Houston with delight.
Houston is the home of "Uncle Daniel" of *The Age*,
To express it simply this old man's quite a sage.
The great *Houston Post* is published in Bayou City.
It is eminent for good logic and is witty.
Houston has fine school facilities and for the size
Manufactures extensively with great enterprise,
Her population is in the thousands very high,
When a visitor leaves Houston it is with a sigh.

Galveston on the bay is a most delightful place;
For deep water she has made an especial race.
Six millions has been appropriated [so they say]
By congress to make deep water in Galveston bay.
Her importing and exporting interest is large;
It is now big tonnage; no longer small boats or barge.
She is a commercial city of great importance
For her merchants and business men are way in advance.
Her citizens are enterprising without a boast,
And are aware that they have the best town on the coast.
Where the oyster abounds, fish, shrimp, crab and turtle.
And the parks adorned with orange blossoms and myrtle.
And the sea-baths are fine; so are boat rides on the bay.
There the porpoise and schools of fish are in a big play.

Galveston's population is very large indeed,
'Tis no wonder that many go there with steamboat speed.
The Committee on Invitation are so polite,
Courteously do they treat all whom they invite.
And *The Galveston News*, "The Old Lady by the sea,"
Graciously sways her queenly sceptre most royally.
The horticulturist raises flowers rich and rare
While the fragrance of rose and violet perfume the air.
Oleanders, magnolias and the bright green bay tree,
Wave aloft their branches, as the traveler nears the lea.
The climate is delightful and extremely mild
Occasionally a norther whistles fierce and wild
To destroy malaria, then everything is still
And the soft gentle zephyrs resume their play at will.

Now this poem is ended so writes the Poetess,
If she has seemingly praised some towns and others less
It was not intentional to give any offense
Having confined the poem to facts and not pretense.
In this true statistical and descriptive account
She has scrupulously estimated the amount.
By placing Texas in the Scales of Justice and the Truth;
Weighed and not found wanting in area, beauty or youth.
For Texas is larger than England or Seven States,
And enormously rich in ore according to dates
Taken from the geological records on file,
With state pride the Poetess lowers the scale with a smile.
The "Truth is Mighty and will prevail is indeed true.
The Poetess now bids her readers a pleasant adieu.

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